Impact of long sitting before computer on health

†1567. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any apprehension that sitting before the computer screen for hours together leads to the clotting of blood; and

(b) if so, the detials thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) No such case has been reported so far in the Department of Information Technology. However, as precautionary measures, some people are using Optically Coated Tempered Safety Glass on Monitor for relief of Eyestrain and Fatigue.

Expansion of telecom in rural areas

1568. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made towards achieving the objective laid down in 1999 National Telecom Policy relating to striking a balance between expansion of telecom in rural areas and providing high-value services for a modern economy, achieving a teledensity of 7 (number of phones for every 100 people) by the year 2005,15 by the year 2010 and a rural teledensity of 4 by the year 2010; and

(b) what are the details thereof till the 31 st December, 2002 and what is the perspective planning till the year 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) There has been satisfactory progress towards achieving the objective laid down in National Telecom Policy (NTP)-1999 regarding striving a balance between expansion of telecom

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

in rural areas and providing high-level services for the country's economy and of achieving teledensity targets. Number of rural telephones have increased from 36.5 lacs in March, 1999 to 91.5 lacs in March, 2002 and rural teledensity per 100 population has increased from 0.68 in March, 1999 to 1.21 in March, 2002. As on 31 st December, 2002, rural teledensity is 1.42 and for the country as a whole is 4.79. In line with the objectives of NTP-1999. National Development Council has approved the proposal to achieve rural teledensity of 3 and overall teledensity of 9.91 by the year 2007 for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007).

Decrease in mail traffic

1569. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been overall decrease in mail traffic during the year 2000-01 as compared to previous year;

(b) if so. the extent of decrease in different categories and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether postal services including telegraphic services are getting beyond the reach of the common man because of steep hike in tariffs in contrast to telecom facilities which the cheaper and affordable; and

(d) with the decrease in postal traffic, what has been the impact on the efficiency and productivity of the staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The extent of decrease of mail traffic in various postal services for the years 2000-01 compared to previous year 1999-2000 is given in the Statement *(See* belowj. The decline in postal traffic is due to the rapid growth of other means of communications including telephone and internet.

(c) The postal services including telegraphic services are within the reach of common man. So far as Telegraphic Services are concerned, there have been no revision of tariffs for the last 20 years, since 1983.